

How God's Word is Spread, Part 3 - Acts 19:10-12 - March 8th, 2009

- This account in the book of Acts has, woven into its fabric, tremendous encouragement for us today, regardless of where we're at in life.
- I'm keenly aware there may be some in this church service today who are very concerned about the uncertainties of what lies ahead.
- This is one of many reasons we study the Bible book by book chapter by chapter and verse by verse. We get the whole counsel of God.

- This is part three of a series titled: "How God's Word is Spread." However, it could also be titled, "how to survive what lies ahead."
- I'm struck by the similarities between what we, as the church, face now, and what they, as the early church, faced back then.
- If you look at what they did back in that day, you will see how applicable it is for us today. How were they able to do what they did?

1. By patient boldness (Verse 8a)

v8a Paul patiently, but boldly, preaches for a period of three months there in the Synagogue. This is the longest period of time he did this.

2. By persistent persuasion (Verse 8b)

v8b We're told he argued persistently and persuasively during those three months. He wasn't argumentative, he used winning words.

3. By obstinate opposition (Verse 9a)

v9a The Apostle Paul is met with obstinance from those who refused to believe and, we're told that they maligned the Way, publicly.

4. By the Holy Spirit's power (Verse 9b)

v9b After this obstinate opposition, Paul leaves, but not before taking with him those disciples that had been baptized in the Holy Spirit.

5. By daily commitment (Verse 9c)

v9c After leaving, they go to the school of Tyrannus every day during their time off during the "heat of the day," to have their discussions.

6. By doing it long term (Verse 10a)

10a This went on **for two years**.

v10a Luke, by the Holy Spirit, tells us that these daily lectures in the school of Tyrannus went on for two years! Two years? Yes, Two!
- That's a long time! Every day for two years! Our approach to the Kingdom needs to be long term. God will bring it about in His time.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. NIV

7. By equipping others (Verse 10b)

10b ... so that **all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.**

v10b For two years he took those 12 men to these daily teachings, and as a result, all the Jews and Greeks heard the Word of the Lord.
- This is quite impressive really. If you think about it, this is quite an accomplishment for the Apostle Paul even if it took two years to do.

- The question is this; "how was the Apostle Paul able to do all of this?" Answer, he didn't! God did it through him by equipping others.
- Remember these 12 men were there every day with Paul, being mentored and equipped by Paul to do the work required to reach them.
- After being empowered by the Holy Spirit, they were equipped by the Apostle Paul so all the Jews and Greeks could hear God's Word.

Ephesians 4:11-12 11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, NKJV

8. By extraordinary miracles (Verse 11)

11 God did extraordinary miracles through Paul,

v11 We're told that God did "extraordinary miracles through Paul. In other words, there are ordinary miracles, and extraordinary miracles.

- Perhaps we're given this detail because the Holy Spirit wants us to know that God may choose the ordinary to do the extraordinary.
- I believe the number one reason that people don't share their faith or spread the Word, is because they fear that they're not able to.

- Did you happen to notice that verse 11 doesn't say that Paul did the extraordinary miracles? It says that God did it, "through" Paul.
- Paul was just the delivery man, through whom the miracles came. God chooses and uses the ordinary to do the extraordinary.
- In the Apostles first letter to the Corinthian church, Paul explains why this is, and how this is, having been the recipient of this himself.

1 Corinthians 1:26-28 26 Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28 He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things-and the things that are not-to nullify the things that are, NIV